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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

#### A Political Blow at Alaska.

Mr. JAMES COONEY, a Member of Congress from the State of Missouri, has introduced in the House of Representatives a ioint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States respecting the admission of new States Into the Union.

He proposes the addition of this Article, to be numbered XVI.:

"No new State, the territory of which, or a part thereof, is not contiguous to the United States, shall be admitted by the Congress into this Union."

The author of this measure manifestly wants to bar out Puerto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines. He would also like to keep out Cuba, if she should ask to come Into the Union as a State.

Putting these countries out of consideration, why, we should like to know, is a barrier to be put up against the admission of Alaska?

The President in his Message to the present Congress strongly recommends the establishment of a more highly organized territorial government in Alaska. The increased population of that region has been drawn from our own people, familiar with free institutions in the several States from which they have gone, capable of self-government, and in every way fitted for the privilege of Statehood, when sufficient in numbers. To deny to the inhabitants of Alaska all possibility of ever coming into the Union is to deal an unmerited blow at a Territory whose future because our only access to the country is by | must stand out: a waterway instead of overland.

After all, what a foolish thing it would be for this great republic to tie its own hands. as this amendment would tie them, in respect to the admission of States, wherever they may be situated. Contiguity is not a suitable test of admissibility so much as capacity to live under free institutions and administer them. The power of the Government, as exercised by the people through their Representatives in Congress, should not be trammelled by amendments to the Constitution except in cases of the plainest necessity, so obvious as to be practically beyond serious question.

No such case is presented in behalf of Mr. COONEY'S amendment.

Uselessness of the Coroners' Jury. The following paragraph appeared in THE SUN yesterday:

"A Coroner's jury decided yesterday that PIETRO POLUCIA, who stabbed Francisco Sicilio to death in a quarrel in a saloon at 319 East 114th street on Jan. 5, acted in self-defence. Coroner FITZPATRICK discharged the prisoner, but he was rearrested by order of the District Attorney as soon as he got outside the court room and will be arraigned before

Later the man was held without bail in a police court. Such an occurrence, so far the Christian era as other than 1 A. D. from being unusual, is a matter of frequent happening in the Coroners' courts of the various boroughs. If the Coroner commits accused persons to prison to await the action of the Grand Jury, all goes smoothly; but it is and has long been the custom. both of the police officials and of District Attorneys, to disregard entirely the discharge of prisoners by Coroners when such action did not seem to them proper. They have almost invariably been unwilling to agree to the release of accused persons before the question of probable guilt has been submitted to the investigation of the Grand Jury. Coroners usually protest against the arrest of discharged prisoners under these circumstances, and friction between the two sets of officials is common. But the Coroners can only splutter and the police officers march off in possession of their prisoners.

Of similar impotency are the investigations by Coroners' juries into the causes of death by accident, as in falling buildings or in railway disasters. The censures or recommendations of the Coroners' courts are valueless for any future legal proceedings and are, indeed, but empty words. The question, therefore, becomes exceedingly pertinent, what is the function of Coroners' courts and juries, and what do they amount to, anyway?

The office of Coroner is one of the oldest, If not the oldest, known to our Anglo-Saxon civilization. It originated, of course, in ages of disorder and lawlessness when there was hardly anything corresponding to a police force, and the need of some official to investigate cases of peculiar death was the first thing required. As time went on and government attained a more elaborate organization, these Coroners' investigations. except in communities where they were an actual part of the regular judicial or police proceeding, became of little value. In England to-day, for instance, the Coroner sends an accused person to prison if the jury charges the latter with guilt; but, if the jury declares that there is no reason to hold the accused, the verdict is acquiesced in by the law officers of the Crown, unless it is on its Coroner's investigation, under such circumstances, is clearly useful.

In the interior of New York, up to within a few years, Coroners' investigations were conducted with old-fashioned minuteness and were prolific causes of trouble and expense to citizens and taxpayers. Wit- assertion is sustained by facts. nesses, jurors and Coroners were paid by the taxpayers grumbled. They saw that the cases were mostly those of an unimportant character where the causes of police and District Attorney acted independently. The candidates for coronerships were often forced to pledge themselves that they would not summon juries and hold Yormal investigations save when absolutely

in cities of the first class. This reduced the functions of Coroners in all places of the State, save in our own city and in Buffalo, to a mere "Medical Examinership" such as is the case in many other States, notably in Massachusetts. Coroners in the interior of the State, who are almost always physicians, now do little more than look into all sudden or unexplained deaths, and either make a preliminary commitment of accused persons for probable cause, or call suspicious circumstances to the attention of the District Attorney.

We believe that the amendments making these changes as they were first introduced in the Legislature were made to apply to the whole State, without restriction; but that Buffalo and our own city were finally exempted from their operation because of the curtailment of political patronage that would otherwise be effected. We are bound to say that we can conceive no other reason, save the ignoble one suggested, why Coroners' juries should not be abolished in this city and in Buffalo, as well as elsewhere. We mean no criticism of the present Coroners who, we do not question, are honest and intelligent men, when we say that the administration of their office in this city is now and has for a long time been a series of thoroughly perfunctory, costly, annoying and wholly useless proceedings. No one can doubt this for an instant who will take the slightest Coroner. Many of the old and valuable practices of the office, such as the viewing of the body by the jury, have been entirely abandoned and the "inquest" is jammed

through as rapidly as possible. There is no reason whatever why the functions now performed by the Coroners and their juries could not be entirely and properly conducted by the officials now known as Coroners' physicians, who should, just as in the country, make a preliminary investigation and report to the police cases that may seem to merit their attention.

## Bets on the Century.

In THE SUN's opinion, the whereabouts of the dividing line between the 19th and 20th century is, in all reason, to be found at the end of the present year, 1900. When, however, the subject is approached in the manner of the subjoined communication, the case requires special treatment prosperity ought not to be clouded merely from which mere reason or probability

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUR-Sir: The Buffelo I quirer was recently asked to decide when the 20th century began, as a sporting matter, and the answe was this:

"As the Pope of Rome is considered a better mathematician than Emperor William of Germany and his Holiness comes out for 1901, I will stick to him and pay off bets on his decision Was this decision right, and should bets be paid

The decision was right, but bets, which cannot be determined by opinion or probability, but require certainty, must be declared off.

The century dispute hinges on the idea that the number used in connection with a certain year refers not to the year itself but to the year preceding. This again comes from a notion that the first year was the year O. This, again, originates, perhaps, in the fact that some astronomers. for easier computation when the years before or after the birth of Christ are involved, call a certain year 0. Of this the

Encyclopædia Britannica says: "Astronomers denote the year which preceded the first of our era by zero, and the year previous to that by 1 B. C. But chronologers, in conformity with the common notion, call the year preceding the era 1 B. C., the previous year 2 B. C., and so on.

A letter upon the subject found in the

London Times, contains this information: "In the 18th century, and long afterward, people used ordinal numbers with the words Anno Domini. Thus they wrote Anno Domini M.CC.L. IIIIo., not Anno Domini M.CC.L. IIIIor, If inaccurate translations, such as 'In the year of our Lord one thousand two hundred and fifty-four' ha not come into use instead of 'In the one thousand two hundred and fifty-fourth year of our Lord,' the controversy about the beginning of the century would never have arisen."

In the 18th chapter of HERSCHELL'S "Outlines of Astronomy" there are these clear statements:

"In the historical dating of events there is no year A. D. 0. The year immediately previous to A. D. 1 is always called B. C. 12.

"The years are denominated as years current (not as years clapsed) from the midnight between the 81a of December and the 1st of January immediately subsequent to the birth of Christ, according to th chronological determination of that event by Diongsius Exiguus." • • •

"A date, whether of a day or year, always expresses the day or year current and not elapsed." Days, months, years and centuries are named by numbers. Fourteenth, or 14, is the name of to-day. January is the name of the month. Nineteen hundred is the name of the year. Nineteenth or 19, is the name of the century. We are in them all, not past. The name is given to each at its birth goes immediately into common use, and lasts throughout its life. 1, 14, 1900 would be a common way of dating a letter written to-day, all cardinal numbers with an ordinal significance. Why some people should say that the year alone has no name while it is incomplete, and that the name associated with it is really the title of the year from which we have last emerged, is one of the things no fellow can find out; but there

Hence the boundary line of the 19th and 20th centuries being, reasonably or unreasonably, disputed, no bets about it go.

## Mr. Balfour on England's Wars.

In the speech which he delivered the other day at East Manchester, and which seems to have afforded but little consolation to his countrymen, Mr. A. J. BALFOUR as face a gross miscarriage of justice. A serted that England had emerged triumphant from all of her wars, with the single exception of the contest which closed with the acknowledgment of the independence of the United States. Considered merely as a historical question, it may be worth while to consider how far Mr. BALFOUR'S

Let us begin with the early years of the the fee system. The fees were large and fourteenth century, when, on the field of Bannockburn, the independence of Scotland was assured, the definite union of that kingdom with England, which death were obvious. In important cases the | EDWARD I. was so near effecting, being by that battle postponed for almost four centuries. Then came the war between England and France, in the course of which, after the victories of Crecy and Politiers, great 'conquests were made by necessary. But this did not accomplish EDWARD III. at the cost of the French

phant from the war with France. After 1415, however, which witnessed the victory at Agincourt, all seemed changed, and, in 1422, HENRY VI. was actually crowned King of France as well as of England. Yet, thirty years later, nothing remained of the conquests of HENRY V. except Calais in the north and Bordeaux in the south, and when, in 1453, the last-named city fell definitely into French hands, the hope of regaining Aquitaine passed away forever.

ing of the Hundred Years' War. EDWARD IV. is described as a great warrior, and, undoubtedly, he was successful against domestic rivals, but when, in 1475, he began an invasion of France, he went home without glory or conquest, though with some French money in his pocket. There was another war with France under EDWARD VI. which resulted in the loss of Boulogne, which HENRY VIII. had captured; the next war with France, which took place in the reign of his elder eister, cost England the possession of Calais, the name of which town MARY TUDOR said would be found branded on her heart. These contests, surely, did not close triumphantly.

We pass to the reigns of the first two STUARTS. The attempt of JAMES I. to rees. tablish his son-in-law in the Palatinate ended in miserable failure, and so did the trouble to be present at a hearing before a great expedition against Cadiz under CHARLES I. Equally abortive was CHARLES'S war with France, the principal aim of which was the relief of La Rochelle. As for the war which CHARLES II., bribed by Louis XIV., made against Holland, it suffices to recall the fact that a Dutch fleet rode exultant in the Thames, and burned English warships in the Medway. In the War of the Spanish Succession, splendid victories were won by MARLBOROUGH, but no fairminded person will contend that the contest ended gloriously for England, for the Peace of Utrecht conceded the very thing which WILLIAM III. and MARLBOROUGH had battled to prevent, namely, the accession of a Bourbon to the throne of Spain and of the Indies. If Mr. BALFOURcan discern a triumph for England in the War of the Austrian Succession which closed in 1748 with the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, he can see more than any patriotic Englishman was able to recognize at the time.

We come now to the war with France which lasted from 1793 to 1802. What triumph was there for England in the Peace of Amiens, which broke the heart of WIL-LIAM PITT, and by which almost everything was renounced upon the Continent for which England had contended for nine years? The last contest to which we shall refer was the War of 1812 between England and the United States, which witnessed the repeated defeat of English by American frigates and the disastrous rout of an army of Peninsular veterans under Wellington's brotherin-law at New Orleans.

It will be admitted that the facts are very far from supporting Mr. Balfour's assertion. He is a university man and ought to be well informed, but we opine that he did not take honors in the school of modern history.

## Hoe and Pocketbook.

According to a song of much summary philosophy, "the colored man picks the cotton and the white man gets the money.' Why are we not all rich? Why do most of us have to work? Are not the rich rich because they systematically rob the poor? Old and perhaps not especially fruitful questions, which are repeated in substance in another column by an aggrieved citizen Not every astronomer uses a year 0, but of Brooklyn, who takes Mr. EDWIN MARKno astronomer looks upon the first year of | HAM's immortal poem for a text. "Why," he asks, "does the Man with the Hoe so seldom become even moderately well-todo?" The trouble is to agree upon the sense of "well-to-do." Shall we say that a man should be so esteemed who has the ordinary comforts and even some of the luxuries of life, who is able to send his children to the public schools, who runs a little ahead and not behind every year? If so, the country is full of well-to-do laborers. They have money in the banks. A great many of them own their houses. They are prosperous men. They constitute the great majority of the adult male population of the country. If they were not well-to-do as a class, the country would be in a bad

But why are they not rich? Because the talent or genius, as it should be called, for making a great fortune is as rare as genius is in other branches of human effort. To get rich in the fierce competitions of business a man must have a combination of penetrative intellect and sagacious judgment. As a manufacturer he must find new processes and new economies. As a merchant he must grasp all the intricate details of the market ahead of his competitors. This large vision will be found in most of the men who make themselves rich. Commodore VANDERBILT foresaw the mighty possibilities of railroads and he devoted himself to them and let steamboats slide. A successful investor in real estate, like the late Amos R. Eno, for example, must have in his mind's eye a picture of the city as it is to be. He has to see the direction of greatest growth in value; to look ahead perhaps twenty or thirty years. Few judgments are equal to that. It is said, we know not how truly, that 90 per cent, of the persons in business fail soon or later. The prizes are few.

Even the seemingly plodding art of frugality, of slow accumulation is not easy Quick come, quick gone is the happy-go lucky history of a good deal of money To lay up is even an art despised of many The inability to have the cake and to eat it does seem one of the foolishest things in nature, but it is a law not to be repealed.

As for the "gentleman" who, like his predecessor of Beacon Hill, "never worked and never will," what hurt does he do to the Man with the Hoe? The father or his grandfather, a Man with the Hoe to start with, had the genius to get rich. This son or grandson lives on the interest of the principal, which is invested in enterprises that employ labor. His money is working for him. It is not "idle wealth." It keeps him and plenty of other fellows going. If Mr. CARNEGIE ever said that the people who do the most of the work never get rich, he said a sentimental and not a sagacious thing. He has done a good deal of work, and has got rich by his remarkable skill and energy; and he started from nothing as most of our makers of great fortunes do. Has he "robbed the poor?"

Did PETER COOPER "rob the poor?" Edward III. at the cost of the French invasion of England, in which the Isle of Wight was ravaged and coroners by salaries instead of by fees, and, another, abolishing Coroners'; juries, save

Edward III. at the cost of the French invasion of England, in another, abolishing Coroners'; juries, save

Edward III. at the cost of the French invasion of the Legislature in the content of two amendments to the statutes one giving the Boards of Supervisors of each county power to pay coroners'; juries, save

Edward III. at the cost of the French invasion of the French invasion of the French invasion of the Isle of Wight was ravaged and Hastings burned. Up to this date England, another, abolishing Coroners'; juries, save

Did Peter Cooper "rob the poor?"

Alas! This is the old sour way of looking at superiority of any kind. We don't be lieve that many persons in all this nation of laborers have this envious disposition. Because John Doe has more money than Richard Roe, must John have robbed Richard? As well might the midget complain that the giant had robbed him of his cubits. Perhaps our Brooklyn correspondent the last cent of his 1900th year.

Teacher-Correct. When would he have secured his rist dollar?

Class-At the close of the year 1.

Teacher-Correct. When would he have secured his rist dollar?

Class-At the close of the year 2.

Teacher-Correct. When would he have secured his rist dollar?

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Class-At the close of the year 2.

Teacher-Correct. When would he have secured his rist dollar?

Class-At the close of the year 2.

Teacher-Correct. Now, wencoment of the Christian era, started to lay up 51 per year, when would he have secured his rist dollar?

Class-At the close of the year 2.

Teacher-Correct. When would he have secured his rist dollar?

Class-At the close of the year 2.

Teacher-Correct. Now, we may secured his rist dollar?

Class-At the close of the year 2.

Teacher-Correct. Now, we may secured his rist dollar?

case he must remember that a hoe is theft

as well as a steam yacht. Instead of glancing back at serfdom for he sake of appreciating the swift and sure progress of the world, our dissatisfied Brooklynite assumes that the laborer is as low as ever. As a matter of fact, the modern laborer has conveniences and comforts which the highest old lords and masters of three hundred years ago could not have. But the great change lies in the Mr. Balfour can scarcely apply the fact that most of the masters, lords and name of triumph to this inglorious end- | rulers of the United States come from the 'robbed" and deprived class which our

Brooklyn Markhamite pities. Mr. MARKHAM's immortal poem has no application to the United States. Here the Man with the Hoe has as good a chance as anybody else and may rise to any place for which his powers fit him. Or if he sinks, he can become a Bryanite shouter and yawp about the "wrongs" of the " producing classes."

### The Middle-of-the-Roadsters.

The Middle-of-the-Road Populists Texas, who polled 60,000 votes for their separate Bryan and Watson electoral ticket in 1896 and 115,000 votes for BARNETT GIBBS, their nominee for Governor in 1898, have been holding a conference and announce their determination of holding a meeting at Waco in March to put in nomination candidates for Governor and other officers. to oppose any further harmonizing with the Democrats, to elect delegates to a Middle-of-the-Road Populist Convention, and to adopt as their motto in the 1900 campaign the words "Down With Fusion." These Middle-of-the-Road men might, perhaps, under different conditions, be large factors in the contest of 1900. but for the circumstance that their sincerity has been discredited by the Democratic alliance of 1896 when their "principles" were bodily confiscated.

Despite a record of a quarter of a million votes cast for their separate electoral ticket four years ago, they are now of no importance. In the Eastern States the Middle-of-the-Road Populists have been absorbed by other eccentric factions, and in the five States in which they ran candidates last year their vote was insignificant: 1,694 in Iowa, 4,856 in Michigan, 1,988 in Pennsylvania; 3,038 in Kentucky and 6,097 in Mississippi. In the last State, they showed the greatest voting strength in the absence of any Republican State ticket, a condition of affairs that is found also in Texas, where in the State election of 1898 the Republicans did not put up a State ticket, although two years before Mr. McKinley had received 170,000 votes.

The Middle-of-the-Roadsters in Waco must be sanguine indeed if they do not recognize the fact that circumstances are not now propitious for crank parties or parties of crank statesmen in the United States. the people of which have little use for the nostrums of agitators.

In a long speech to a short audience in Washington, the Hon. GEORGE SEWALL BOUT-WELL put forth the dreadful notion that somebody or other is trying to dish the republic and set up an empire on the ruins. The guilty person ought to be smoked out. Mr. Bour-WELL should name him and move that he be condemned to the Hole-in-the-Sky to which the Groton statesman sentenced ANDREW

The medal presented on the Massachusetts yesterday to Lieut. VICTOR BLUE by the women of South Carolina was a graceful compliment, well deserved. Lieut. BLUE was one of the many men recommended by the President for reward for distinguished services whom the fight to increase the honors assigned to Rear Admiral Schley prevented from receiving any recognition on the part of the Government.

For the benefit of Col. BRYAN, Jackson Day has been prolonged so as to come the rest of this month and all of next. He has a long list of Jacksonian engagements and was forced to ask for an extension of time. He will no eatch up with Jackson until long after WASH-INOTON'S Birthday. The busiest performer in the United States.

## SAVINGS AND SAVERS.

Immense Increase in Savings Banks Depos itors and Deposits.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The savings of our people are simply enormous, and speak well for their care and thrift. The following figures taken from the Comptroller's report in Washington, giving the progress of the savings banks in the United States for the past five years, may prove interesting to your Number of Savings Banks in U. S ....

Total deposits...... \$1,841,000,000 Surplus..... 168,000,000 Sundry assets..... 9,000,000 1899. Number of Savings Banks in U. S .... Sundry assets.....

Total assets..... \$2.401,000,000 Therefore our savings in five years have increased \$388,000,000; the number of depositors has also increased during the same period 693,000, and the average deposit per person has risen from \$369 to \$395.

Truly we may congratulate ourselves: recent trip abroad has strengthened my conviction that, as a people, we live better and with more comfort, and at the same time save more money, than any other nation in the WILLIAM HANHART. 51 CHAMBERS ST., New York, Jan. 13.

# Zion Churches.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In the story in to-day's Sun headed "Discord in Two Churches." t should have been mentioned that both of the churches are for colored people. BRIDGEPORT, Jan. 11. A CONSTANT READER.

ferred to were identified as of colored congregations by the word Zion, the common style that denotes

#### Descendant of a Signer Killed in South Africa.

colored churches.

From the Birmingham Age-Herald. Lieut. Charles Carroll Wood of the Lancashire Regiment, who was killed in battle with the Boers in the Transvaal the other day, was of Southern ancestry. He was the son of John Taylor Wood, who distinguished himself in the Navy of the Confederate States in the American Civil War. After the fal of the Confederacy, John Taylor Wood concluded not to remain in the United States, and he took up his residence in Canada. His children have been brought up as subjects of the British Queen. Lieut. Wood's mother was a Miss Mackubin of Maryland who sprang from the famous Carrolls of Carrollton

From the Detroit Journal.

IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Gen. French seems to be steadily elbowing his way toward the Orange River at Norval's Pont, pushing the Boers back first from his left and now from his right. Having occupied positions to the west and north of Colesberg covering the roads to the north, he is now reported to be engaged in trying to envelop their left flank and drive them up the road toward Norval's Pont, or cut their communications. About half way between Colesberg junction and Achtertang station there is a range of hills through which the railway passes, the principal positions on which are held by the Boers, and it is to dislodge them from these positions that he has begun the movement reported from Cape Town against their left flank. From the report of a reconnoissance made toward Achtertang it would appear that the Boers have decided to make a stand at that point, as they were found to have guns in position, and their defences are said to be surrounded by wire entangle-

ments As to the situation on the Modder River and in the neighborhood of Sterkstroom, there is complete silence, for the reason probably that there are things going on which the British War Office desires to keep close. There is equal reticence with regard to affairs on the Tugela. the only news from that quarter being published in a Vienna paper on the authority of a telegram from Brussels, probably apocryphal. that the Boers had stormed all the positions round Ladysmith, which was expected to capitulate at any moment. Meanwhile it is interesting to learn that

among the papers left behind at Dundee by the British when they hurriedly evacuated that place in October, were a number of documents of present military and future historical value. They are now in the possession of the Transvaal Government and unveil a thoroughly worked-out scheme to attack the independence of both the republics as far back as 1896, notwithstanding constant assurances of amity toward the Orange Free State. Among these papers there are portfolios of military sketches of various routes of invasion from Natal into the Transvaal and Free State. prepared by Major Grant, Capt. Melville and Capt. Gale, immediately after the Jameson raid. A further portfolio, marked secret. styled "Reconnoissance Reports of Lines of Advance Through the Free State," was prepared by Capt. Wolley, in the Intelligence Division of the War Office, in 1897; and it is accompanied by a special memorandum. signed by Sir Redvers Buller, to keep it secret. But both the Transvaal and Free State Governments seem either to have been well served by their agents, or their military leaders divined the intentions of the British Government, for it became known to them soon after Gen. White arrived in Natal that he had orders not to wait a declaration of hostilities but to seize the Van Reenen's Pass whenever he considered himself strong enough to act. So soon as the Free State Government was warned of the premeditated aggression of the British Government it determined to forestall it, and before Gen. White could act the Free State forces had occupied and fortifled the pass thus blocking the main avenue by which the British had proposed making their principal advance against the Transvaal. These facts

throw considerable light on much that was obscure in connection with the decision taken by the Transvaal Government not to wait for the British to make the first move, but to anticipate them and carry the war into the British territory. They also go to explain the confusion into which the whole British plan of campaign was thrown when it was found that the advance from Ladysmith through the Orange Free State was no longer practicable. Copies of the docu-

been submitted to the Governments of the great European powers. A brief telegram from the Modder River Camp states that heavy cannonading was heard in the direction of Kimberley on Wednesday, but beyond that nothing was known.

ments captured at Dundee have, it is said

## GEN. WILSON ON THE CUBANS. He Tells How Best to Relieve the Needs of

the Cuban People. WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.-Gen. James H. Wilson, Military Commander of the Provinces of Matanzas and Santa Clara Cuba address to-day to the members of an American Auxiliary of the Cuban Provisional Red Cross Gen. Wilson had been asked to explain what, in his opinion, would be the best manner to reieve the needs of the people of Cuba, and in his address he reviewed very fully the conditions now existing in Cuba. He said:

B"If intervention on our part had been delayed ten months longer the whole of the agricultural district would have been dead. But, with our help, the spectre of want has been driver away. I want to tell you that the Cuban people are just as benevolent as you are. They made the most heroic sacrifices. Hundreds of mer died of starvation in order that their wives and children might live."

The school system prescribed by law in Cuba. he said, is as good as ours. The teachers are not as well equipped as ours because there are o normal schools or such institutions in the Island, but many of them were educated in this country. He spoke, as an instance, of a school aught by a graduate of Cornell in a town in his district. He had fifty-four pupils and all spoke English as well, almost, as we do, and could hold their own with any similar number of scholars in the same grade in this country There were no divided schools in Cuba

"In extending your assistance to the schools of Cuba." said Gen. Wilson, "confine yourself to the matter of furnishing books and desks and school appliances. There is no necessity for establishing new ones. The books and

and school appliances. There is no necessity for establishing new ones. The books and appliances were all worn out or destroyed during the years of the revolution.

"Tetanus is universal in Cuba. A wound in the foot of a human being or of an animal is almost sure to result in lockjaw. Shoes and stockings, therefore, light clothing or the material to make up are the chief requisites. There is no use sending your cast off winter clothing down there, for it cannot be worn. Indeed, there is no use in sending anything but money to Cuba and an intelligent representative to direct its expenditure. I can quote the "coon" song of May Irwin very appropriately as regards Cuba in the extension of charity. 'If you aint got no money you needn't come around.' The Red Cross, I am sorry to say, has already wasted much money in eatablishing eleemosynarylinstitutions and then finding funds were lacking to conduct them. Devote your help to assisting the institutions already established. Teachers and kindergartners may be sent with wisdom, but bear in mind that light clothing, plenty of shoes and stockings, medicines that will build up enervated systems are what are needed. Everything else would be a work of supererogation.

"It is the only tropical country in which the gation.
It is the only tropical country in which the

"It is the only tronical country in which the social efficiency of the white man has been proven. Benjamin Gill's book to the contrary notwithstanding. The Cuban whites are just as strong, just as industrious, just as benevolent as the same class in this country. I declare, without reservation, that in the cities of Matanzas and Santa Clara, ranging in population from 12,000 to 40,000 people there is less violence, less lawlessness than there is in any cities of the same size in the United States. There is no more humane, no more kindly people than the Cubans. Every unkindly term that has been leveled at them has been unjust and untrue."

Gen, Wilson was asked by one of the Indies whether the Spaniards or the Cubans represented the best class of the citizens of the island. "The Cubans," he responded with em-

# From the Hospital.

The question how far the increase of cancer among the more highly civilized nations. which has appeared so marked during recent years, is caused by the greater quantity of meat which is eaten in prosperous countries is matter of very considerable interest. That man is by nature not a vegetarian, in other words that he is naturally not a mixed feeder. may be taken as pretty certain; but it is also certain that as the result of hard necessity meat has generally in times past been to him a juxury, and has but rarely tound a preponderating element in his diet. But with prosperity and with the greater ease with which animal food can now be obtained we find whole nations falling upon meat as a necessary ingredient of their daily diet; and in the very nations among whom this change is most noticeable we are told that cancer shows the greatest increase.

# NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE.

Search for a Chairman to Succeed Senator Jones-Review of the Possibilities.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.-Three national elecions were won for the Democratic party with, respectively, Senator Barnum of Connecticut, Senator Gorman of Maryland and State Secretary Harrity of Pennsylvania, three Eastern statesmen, as chairmen of the National Demoeratic Committee. Senator Jones of Arkansas, who became national chairman in 1896, was the first Western or Southwestern Democrat to occupy that post. His retention in 1900 has become uncertain through personal and factional differences.

Jones hails from a State overwhelmingly Democratic, from a section of country in which there are no doubtful electoral votes, and his "management" of the 1896 canvass was not brilliant. This may have been due to his lack of funds, but that doesn't enter into calculations. The selection of another chairman must be, from present appearances, no easy task, for there have been a most unusually large number of political fatalities since 1898 among those whose qualifications for the post were accepted as at least serious.

Goebel of Kentucky, who seemed likely to be the Democratic "man on horseback" as an effective leader and manipulator, sustained in his own State a defeat which makes impracticable his further promotion, irrespective of any action taken by the Frankfort Legislature or its members.

McLean of Ohio, whose recommendations as almoner of campaign funds for a party in great need of them in 1900, and whose strategetic ability was highly prized till practically tested. failed utterly in the handling of his own canvass and was overwhelmed with disaster in Ohio. Altgeld of Illinois, whose undoubted abilities as an organizer and campaign manager were generally recognized in 1896, when he was Governor, was a candidate for Mayor of Chicago, in April, 1899, and was disastrously defeated, failing to carry a single ward of that city of many wards, and arousing antagonisms which would make dangerous his selection for the post, except by deliberate sacrifice, in advance, of the electoral vote of Illinois.

The Democratic party in the New England States decadent in character and diminished in membership, is without available leaders for the national contest. The last hope was blasted when, at the recent election in Boston. Gen. Collins, the Democratic candidate for Mayor, was defeated in that Democratic city. The obstacles to Democratic success in New

Jersey have been numerous and increasing

since 18.5. Former Senator Smith staked everything for the Democrats upon the election of 1898 for Governor; they fell far short of the vote required, and Smith went down. In Missouri, from which former Gov. Stone hails, there has recently sprung up a contest long deferred between the two wings of the Democratic party there, one representing a progressive faction of voters in the northern counties, and the other Confederate soldiers and their successors in the southern tier of counties and in the backwoods districts. The acceptance of any Missouri chairman for the Democratic National Committee, while bringing nothing of benefit to the Democratic fight in 1900, would put in peril the support of the State which gave Bryan his largest electoral vote and which the

Republicans are hopeful of carrying this year. There are no longer any representative Democrats-no successors to Hendricks, Williams, McDonald, Landers or Voorhees-in Indiana. now for the first time in popular recoilection represented by two Republican United States Senators. Indiana has been politically overshadowed, since she ceased being an October State, by the two neighboring States of Ohio and Illinois. The disastrous defeat of the Democrats in

Iowa, the return of Kansas to the Republican column and the manifest impracticability of the acceptance of any trans-Mississippi chairman on any other issue but that of radical silverism, reduces the Democratic party to the alternative of either retaining Jones as chairman or of seeking as a campaign manager Martin of Virginia, recently redlected by the Legislature of that State after a hard battle in which his qualities as a political leader were put to a serious test. Martin is a Democrat of conservative proclivities and Eastern connections. He is of middle age, will be a Senator until 1907, and is certain to have the support of the Maryland Democrats, who have a victory to their credit in that State and control not only its administration, but the municipal

affairs of Baltimore as well. The Western and Southwest radicals, the foes of railroads, trusts and all combinations of capital, have little use for Martin, however, and the proposition is made that, in addition to being the candidate, Bryan will be asked to take the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee and to become at once the party's Presidential candidate, the chief advocate of his own election, and the manager of the political details connected with it-the architeet, so to speak, of his own political fortunes and, to use a New York colloquialism. "the whole shooting gallery."

What is much more probable than this, however, is that Jones of Arkansas, Hempstead county, into the capital township of which two railroad trains run daily, will remain in charge The search though for a better chairman of the Democratic National Committee than Jones for 1900 is not likely to be abandoned until after the meeting of the convention, Meanwhile the existing committee meets here on Feb. 22.

# THE MAY WITH THE HOE.

His Big Work and Small Pay-Is He Robbed by the Rich?

To the Editor of the Sun-Sir: I should like to have something to say in the Man with the Hoe discussion now raging, if you can give me space. Andrew Carnegie can scarcely be accused of radicalism, yet he is credited with having said: "The greatest surprise of my life was to find that the people who do the work of the world never get rich." The Man with the Hoe is a type of the men who do the work of the world. He has worked hard from his early life, and will do so till he dies. The chances are that he will never have more than the barest of physical necessities, and there are those who will even envy him these. Why does the Man with the Hoe so seldom

become even moderately well-to-do? Here is a "gentleman." who never worked and who probably never will. He spends his time between the fashionable clubs, social functions, races, hotels, theatres, travelling—in short, amusing himself to the top of his bent all the days of his life. How does it come that, monthly, quarterly or yearly, golden streams of wealth pour into this man's pockets, so that all he has to do is to spend his income? What is the source of his income?

There was a time when the rich man owned the Man with the Hoe, and got his wealth in a way that every one could understand. The Man with the Hoe has now been freed from slavery. But he works as hard as ever, and i as poor as ever. The masters of the world das little work as ever, and are as rich as everor richer.
Is it not a reasonable inference that the rich

Is it not a reasonable inference that the rich are still in some way extracting their riches from the Man with the Hoe? I believe the Man with the Hoe is robbed! I believe it wrong to denounce those who would do something to stop the robbery. I believe your idea of leaving him content with his lot is a swinish philosophy.

STEPHER BELL.

150 SAUTH SECOND STREET BROOKLYN, Jan. 11 losophy. 150 South Second Street. Brooklyn, Jan. 11,

## THE TALULAH LYNCHERS.

Italy Intimates That Their Punishment Is Necessary to Full Redress.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 - The Italian Government, through its Ambassador here, has intimated strongly to the State Department that it regards the punishment of the persons engaged in the lynching of five Italians at Talulah, La., as necessary to the full redress which Italy has asked. Owing to the fact that the crime is within the jurisdiction of the State courts and not amount to Federal burisdiction, the national Government is obliged to await the action of the Loudona tribunals. Heretofore the several international incidents caused by the lynching of Italian subjects in the United States have been adjusted by the payment of indemnities to the families of the persons lynched. Congress always appropriating the amounts agreed on. On account of the intimation from Italy, efforts will be renewed by the Government to secure the passage of bills providing that cases involving injury to foreigners shall be tried in the Federal courts. asked. Owing to the fact that the crime is with-

## A NEW HIGH EXPLOSIVE.

Neither Fire nor Hard Blows Will Explode

It, and It is not Affected by Cord Washington, Jan. 13.-The Ordnance Bureau of the Navy, under Admiral O'Neill, has begun the investigation of a new high explosive known as marsite, the discovery of a Mr. Hathaway of Wellsboro, Pa. Preliminary tests of the compound have been made under the direction of Commander Joseph Eaton of the navy, and good results have so far been obtained. All the great European powers are experimenting with new high explosives with a view to securing a compound which combines great velocity with low pressure and safety. The ordnance experts of the army have under consideration an explosive known as thorite, which is claimed to be a nitrate compound. and now the navy has taken up marsite, which is also believed to be a nitrate compound. The inventor of marsite has not yet disclosed the composition of his explosive, but he has demonstrated to Commander Eaton that it is one of the safest explosives in the world to handle.

one of the safest explosives in the world to handle.

Commander Faton recently witnessed an exhibition at Lowell, Mass., where the explosive was submitted to a number of unheard-of tests. It looks like a dark clay and there was no little trepidation when the inventor proceeded to pound it with a hammer to break it into small pieces. He demonstrated that it is into small pieces. He demonstrated that it is impossible to produce an explosion with it by hard blows, and a further trial showed that it would not explode when lighted. The flame caused it merely to sizzle for a second and the light went out. To explode marsite it is necessary to use simultaneously the combined forces of percussion and concussion. In conducting the experiments these forces were secured by the use of an electric battery, and to show its great power a quantity of the c impound was placed in a 4-inch shell, which was placed in an excavation in the ground. Over the hole was a screen of steel one inch thick, and a wooden structure was built on top. The current was turned on, and the explosion tore a hole in the steel plate and burst the shell in thousands of fragments, Most explosives lose their power when in contact with great cold, but marsite was placed between two large cakes of ice, exploded with the electric current and cast pieces of lee high in the air.

Admiral O'Neil expects that further tests will be conducted to learn the stability of the new compound and to determine its keeping qualities.

#### FRENCH LAW OF MARRIAGE, Explanation of the Status of Foreign Wives of French Subjects.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.-In a mail despatch to the State Department, the United States Embassy at Paris has made an explanation of the French laws concerning the status of foreign wives of French subjects:

American women who have become the wives of Frenchmen, and subsequently have been eserted, have a peculiar status before the law of France. The French law of marriage provides that marriages contracted by French citizens in foreign countries are valid if celebrated according to the forms habitual in those countries, provided they conform to the requirements of the French code with respect to age, prior marriage, kinship, parental consens and consent of the parties. If, however, these formalities have been disregarded, the described wie still can claim recognition if she was 22 years of age and her husband 25 at the time of the marriage, and if there was no manifest intention to evade the provision of the French law. Under these conditions the alliance would be known by the courts as a putative marriage, the effect of which would be, notwithstanding the invalidity of the marriage, to give the wife the status of a legally married woman and the children the right to bear the name of the father. They could also inherit the father's estate. The French law would, further, give the putative wife the right of alimony and enable her to force such a claim, not only against heribusband, but, in the event of his inability, against his relatives.

An American wife of a French husband who has proved unfaithful, therefore, is properly protected by the law of France and the husband is released from none of his obligations. If he should, under these circumstances, remarry in France, he would be liable to sentence for bigamy in the courts of his own land if it could be shown he was overtwenty-five years of age at the time of his first marriage and had age, prior marriage, kinship, parental consent

#### GUARDED IN DEATH BY HER DOG The Faithful Animal's Distress When Hes Body Was Taken Away.

could be shown he was overtwenty-five years age at the time of his first marriage, and he entered into that contract in good faith.

From the Philadelphia Record. Guarded by a handsome dog that had been her constant companion in life, the dead body of aged Mrs. Mary McDonald of 425 Lombard street, was found on the doorstep at Fourth and Lombard streets yesterday morning. The poorly-clad woman was noticed by scores of passersby as she sat on the step, with her head had become weary and had fallen asleep as she sat in the sun. She was dressed in chabby black, with a worn fur cape thrown around her shoulders, and a white veil over her face made a queer contrast with her otherwise black attire. Women and children on their way to the nearby grocery store noticed the queer pair—old woman and dog—seated together, but

pair—old woman and dog—seated together, but no one's suspicions were aroused by the woman's long rest.

Finally Mrs. Geisking, the wife of a baker across the street, saw the handsome black and white dog lick the woman's hands and face and then give a dismal howl as his caress was not returned. Fearing that the old woman was ill, and could not rise from the step, she started to investigate. As she approached she was met by a threatening advance from the dog, and she reached the step only after many kind words to the animal. Shaking the old woman's shoulder failed to arous: her, and when her arm was raised it was found to be coid and stiff. Mrs. Geisking dropped it with a scream, and notified the neighbors. A small crowd collected around the old woman, but the dog kept them all at bay. Every advance was met by a snarl, and Policeman Criscon of: the Third district was called.

His approach was likewise resented by the faithful animal, but the patrol wagon was called and the woman's body was placed in it

no one's suspicions were aroused by the

faithful animal, but the patrol wagon was called and the woman's body was placed in it in spite of the dog's protests and growls. When in spite of the dog's protests and growis. When his mistress was put in the wagon and he was left out he howled and barked and ran wildly about, but refused to be caught. The woman was first taken to the Pennsylvania Hospital, where it was found she had been dead some time, and was then removed to the Morgue, where the Coroner's post-mortem showed she had succumbed to an attack of heart disease.

The dog followed the patrol wagon to the hospital, and exidently thought his mistress remained there, as he waited outside until noon, when he returned dejectedly to the rooms on Lombard street.

While no one seemed to know the dead woman, she was a familiar sight on the streets, however, as police and citizens had seen her every morning with the dog. The animal was well kept and wore a handsome collar,

#### COCA CHEWING IN BOLIFIA. South American Belief in the Mysterious Powers of the Plant. From the Chicago Record.

The Indians regard the coca with extreme reverence. Von Tschudi, the Austrian scientist, who made a most thorough study of the ancient customs of the Incas, says: "During divine worship the priests chewed coca eaves, and unless they were supplied with them it was believed that the favor of the god could not be gained. It was also deemed necessary that the supplicator for divine grace should approach the priests with an acullico' in his mouth. It was believed that any business undertaken without the benediction of coca leaves would not prosper, and to the shrub itself worship was rendered. During an interval of more than 300 years Christianity has not been able to subdue this deep-rooted idolatry, for everywhere we find traces of belief in the mysterious powers of this plant. The exeavators in the mines of Carro del Pasco

excavators in the mines of Cerro del Pasco throw chewed coca upon the hard veins of metal, in the belief that it softens the ore and renders it more easy to work. The Indians even at the present time put coca leaves in the mouths of dead persons in order to secure them a navorable reception on their entrance into another world, and when a Peruvian on a pourney falls in with a mummy he, with timid reverence, presents to it some coca leaves as his pious offering."

One of the scientific explorers who has been working up in this region told me his experience with a coca chewer. "A man was employed by me," he said, "in very intorious digging. During the five days and nights he was in my service he never taste i food and took only two hours sleep each night, but at intervals of two hours and a half or three hours he repeatedly chewed about half an ounce of coca leaves and kept an 'acullico' continuers in his mouth. I was constantly beside him, and, therefore, had the opportunity to closely observe him. The work for which I had engaged him being finished, he a companied me on a two days' journey across the level ground. Though on foot, he kept pace of my mine and halted only for the chacear tehewing. In leaving me he declared that he would willing yeight work and that he would willing yeight of the same and pated work and that he would willing yeight work and that he would be the work of which is at en and the would go through work and that he would go through food if I would but alrow him a sufficience. The village priest assured this man was 52 years of age, and the never known him to be ill in his life."